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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

February 17, 1986

Local/HTs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--High school students throughout the state are tuning their instruments for the 27th annual Jazz Festival at Eastern Illinois University Saturday (Feb. 22).

Allan Horney, EIU associate professor of music and festival organizer, said there will be 36 junior and senior high schools competing in the one-day competition.

An awards concert, featuring the top band in each of six categories, will be presented in Dvorak Concert Hall beginning at 4:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

High schools attending are:

Alton, Argo, Arthur, Bethany, Burbank Reavis, Champaign Centennial, Champaign Central, Chatham Glenwood, Chicago Heights Bloom, Chicago Mendel Catholic, Decatur Eisenhower, Decatur McArthur, Stephen Decatur, Hinsdale South, Hoopeston-East Lynn, Litchfield, Mt. Zion, Olney East Richland, Pontiac, Reed-Custer, East St. Louis Lincoln, East St. Louis Senior, Sullivan, Stonington, Taylorville, Villa Grove.

Junior high and middle schools participating are:

Decatur Jefferson Middle School, Decatur Roosevelt Middle School, Decatur Thomas Jefferson, Hoopeston-East Lynn, Paris Crestwood School, Paris Mayo Middle School, Sullivan, Taylorville, Villa Grove.

The bands participate and compete, beginning at 8 a.m., on the basis of school enrollment. "Every band gets a division rating and then we give awards to the top three bands in each of the six enrollment categories," said Horney. Performances will be held in the Dvorak Concert Hall and the University Union.

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Jazz Festival

add 1

"This event is a real learning experience for the students because of the clinics held in the afternoon," Horney said.

Saxophone and wood wind specialist Gary Foster, Los Angeles, is the guest performer. He will play with the EIU Jazz Band at the awards concert and "give a clinic on jazz improvisation to the youngsters attending the festival."

Foster conducts the jazz ensemble at Pasadena City College and is a member of the Toshiko Akiyoshi-Lew Tabackin big band. He also is a member of the television orchestra which plays for such shows as Dynasty, Falcon Crest and Hotel.

Foster has also performed on the motion picture sound tracks of Terms of Endearment, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, The Natural and Moscow on The Hudson.

The festival was begun in the late 1950s by Lowell Samuel of Effingham. "Although Eastern has taken over the preparation of the event, Samuel is still an active contributor," said Horney.